AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of assay in which a component becomes at least partly bound to a solid body characterised in that an analyte dependent parameter associated with said component is kinetically measured in a direct and continuous manner and the resulting measured analyte dependent kinetic data is continuously manipulated to continuously quantitatively determine an unknown sample for a period of time after the onset of incubation and before the assay reaches a substantially steady state.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said solid body is an optical waveguide.

3. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said analyte dependent kinetic data is an optical parameter.

4. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein said optical parameter is fluorescence emission.

5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said solid body is in the form of a sample containment device.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said device is a capillary fill device.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the steps of

(a) calibrating the assay system for a number x of samples, each of known analyte concentration (C_a), by measuring continuously for each sample independently at a plurality of times (t_y) after the onset of incubation the value of said analyte-dependent kinetic data (P_z),

(b) for an analyte of unknown concentration (C_b) measuring continuously a number n of independent values of said analyte-dependent parameter (P_d) each at time t_e after the onset of incubation,

(c) combining the data (P_d, t_e) from step (b) with the calibration data (P_z, t_y, C_a) from step (a) to calculate the unknown dose of analyte (C_b) at time t_e.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of calibrating an assay system for x samples each of known analyte concentration (C_a) comprising:

(a) measuring continuously for each sample independently at a plurality of times (t_y) after the onset of incubation the value of an analyte-dependent parameter (P_z); and, optionally

(b) fitting the calibration data to a standard equation.

9. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8 further comprising the step of storing said calibration data on a storing machine readable encoded data storage device.

10. (Withdrawn) A kit comprising an assay device together with a storing machine readable encoded data storage device which contains calibration data P_z, C_a, t_y as defined in claim 7 and which is adapted to cooperate with reading means for the purpose of quantitatively determining an unknown analyte.

11. (Withdrawn) A kit as claimed in claim 10 characterised in that the data storing device comprises a bar code marked on the device.

12. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said kinetic data is fluorescence emission.

13. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said solid body is in the form of a sample containment device.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein said device is a capillary fill device.

15 and 16. (Cancelled).

17 (previously presented). A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said kinetic measurement, data manipulation and determination monitoring are continued until the assay is considered to have reached a substantial steady state.

18. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said kinetic measurement, data manipulation and determination monitoring are discontinued before the assay reaches a substantial steady state.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method of assay in which a component becomes at least partly bound to a solid body, the assay having been calibrated for number x of samples, each of known analyte concentration (C_a), by measuring continuously for each sample independently at a plurality of times (t_y) after the onset of incubation the value of an analyte-dependent parameter (P_z), characterized in that the method comprises the steps:

for an analyte of unknown concentration (C_b) measuring in a direct and continuous manner a number n of independent values of an analyte-dependent parameter (P_d) which is associated with said component each at time t_e after the onset of incubation, and

manipulating said measured analyte dependent parameter to continuously quantatively determine an unknown sample for a period of time after the onset of incubation and before the assay reaches a substantially steady state by combining the data (P_d, t_e) with the calibration data (P_z, t_y, C_a) to calculate the unknown dose of analyte (C_b) at time [[t_c]]] t_e.